The Lottery

By Shirley Jackson

Theme:

Tradition

Plot:

On a clear and sunny morning in June, the people of the village gathered in the square for the lottery. The boys of the village first came and began to gather rock and put them into a pile so that it was ready. Then the other villagers came and then Mr. Summers came carrying the black box. He then began to go over the attendance and then he went over the rules of the lottery. He then called each representatives of a family and they would come a get their slips of folded up paper. The family representatives then took their places in the crowd without opening the piece of paper. When everyone go their slips of paper, they each began to open them and look for the person holding the slip of paper with the black dot on it. The Hutchinson family got the slip of paper with black dot on it. Five pieces of paper corresponding to the five members of the family were then put back into the black box, including the one with the black dot. The family members are sent forward and they each take a piece of folded paper. They each take turn to open it. The last person to open their folded piece of paper was Tessie. The people surround her with the rocks that the boys previously collected. She says that is unfair and then she gets stoned and dies.